

Application No. 09/642,190

filed FIGS. 1 and 2. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is requested that the drawing objections be withdrawn and that the clean copy of the drawings be accepted as formal drawings.

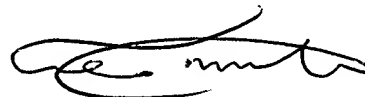
Claims 1-2 and 4-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Ge (US 5,859,508). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ge. Applicants submit that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "a control electrode surrounding the anode electrode to accelerate or intercept the thermal electrons emitted from the filaments." In contrast the control electrode G1 of the Ge reference does not surround the anode electrode as required by independent claim 1. See, FIGs. 5A and 5B. As a result the limitation of "a control electrode surrounding the anode electrode to accelerate or intercept the thermal electrons emitted from the filaments," is not described or suggested in the Ge reference. Therefore, independent claim 1 cannot be anticipated or obvious over Ge. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and cannot be obvious over Ge for the reasons given for claim 1 or for the additional limitations therein.

In short, the independent claim 1 and the dependent claims 2-12 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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